



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF MERRIMAC,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1879.



HAVERHILL:

C. C. MORSE & SON, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.

1879.







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# ARTICLES IN WARRANT,

*For Annual Town Meeting, March 3, 1879, at 1 o'clock, P. M.*

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ARTICLE 1—To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

ART. 2—To choose a Town Clerk.

ART. 3—To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of Chap. 255, Laws of 1878, relating to election of Selectmen.

ART. 4—To choose Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor.

ART 5.—To choose a Town Treasurer and Collector, and fix the compensation for collection.

ART. 6—To see if the town will vote to choose a Valuation Committee, and take such other action on the question as you deem necessary.

ART. 7—To see if the town will vote to erect a fire alarm gong in the tower of the Town Hall, and choose the necessary committees and pass the necessary votes, to carry your action on this question, into effect.

ART. 8—To see what sums of money the town will vote to raise to defray the necessary expenses and charges of the town for the ensuing year, and to make appropriations for the same.

ART. 9—To choose one School Committee for three years.

ART. 10—To choose two Trustees of the Public Library for three years.

ART. 11—To choose Constables

ART. 12—To choose Fence Viewers.

ART. 13—To choose all other necessary town officers, and transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

ART. 14—To act on the list of Jurors as presented by the Selectmen.

ART. 15—To see if the town will authorize their Treasurer to hire money, if necessary, under the direction of the Selectmen.

ART. 16—To see what discount, if any, the town will vote to allow for prompt payment of taxes, and fix the time within which all taxes shall be paid

ART. 17—To see what interest the town will vote to charge, if any, on all taxes remaining unpaid after the expiration of the time fixed for the payment of the same, and vote such instructions to the Collector as you deem proper in relation thereto.

ART. 18.—To see what action the town will take in regard to working the road leading from the Duck Hole to Haverhill line, by the residence of John K. Sargent, as laid out and ordered built by the County Commissioners.

ART. 19—To see if the town will vote to restrain neat cattle and horse kind from going at large for the year ensuing.



## TOWN MEETING.

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At the annual meeting of the town of Merrimac, held at Sargent Hall, March 4th, 1878, the following persons were elected to office, and the following votes passed, viz:—

*Moderator,*

GEORGE ADAMS.

*Town Clerk,*

BAILEY SARGENT.

*Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of Poor,*

JOHN S. CLEMENT,      S. S. BLODGETT,      E. N. SARGENT.

*Treasurer and Collector,*

BAILEY SARGENT.

*Constables,*

ANDREW J. SCOTT,

JAMES H. LAWSON,

PHILIP J. NEAL,

BAILEY SARGENT.

*Highway Surveyors,*

District No. 1, WM. H. BLODGETT.

“ No. 2, MOSES STEVENS.

“ No. 3, F. PLUMMER GOODWIN,

“ No. 4, CALVIN SARGENT.

*School Committee, for three Years,*

O. F. SEAVEY.

*Trustees of Public Library,*

WILLIAM CHASE.

GEORGE ADAMS.

*Surveyors of Lumber and Measurers of Wood and Bark.*

M. G. CLEMENT,

ISAAC W. HUGHES,

GEO. S. PRESCOTT,

CHARLES A. HOWE.

*Fence Viewers and Field Drivers,*

M. PERRY SARGENT,

D. J. POOR,

ANDREW J. SCOTT.

## APPOINTMENTS MADE BY THE SELECTMEN.

*Fire Wards,*

CHAS. W. SAWYER,

DAVID B. WRIGHT.

*Sealer of Weights and Measurers,*

R. A. SARGENT.

*Police Officers,*

JAS. H. LAWSON, A. J. SCOTT, (Resigned May 11).

P. J. NEAL, WM. B. CHAPMAN, (Appointed May 27).

*Special Police and Night Watchmen,*

JOHN B. HEATH,

CLIFTON S. HALL,

EDMUND H. SARGENT,

JOHN O. NEALAND,

JAS. PATTINSON,

JONA. A. PERRY.

*Special Policemen to serve without pay,*

ROBERT J. LAWSON,

WM. MELVIN STORY,

ANDREW D. LAWSON,

O. W. JORDAN,

JOHN B. HEATH,

CLIFTON S. HALL,

WM. H. BLODGETT.

## APPROPRIATIONS.

Schools,	\$4,800 00
Poor,	1,200 00
Debt,	2,000 00
Town officers,	800 00
Sidewalks, &c.,	300 00
Cemeteries,	450 00
Highways and bridges,	2,000 00
Interest and discount,	2,000 00
Fire Department,	1,000 00
Public Library,	500 00
Memorial Day,	100 00
Miscellaneous,	600 00
D. A. Moulton,	220 99
Total,	<hr/> \$15,970 99

VOTED, To sell the building corner of Main and School streets, and to grade the lot; and that the committee chosen last year, with reference to the laying out and grading of the land, the disposition of the building and transfer of papers, viz : (Messrs. James D. Pike, John S. Poyen and Albert Sargent,) continue to act in the matter, with the Selectmen, until the completion of the work.

VOTED, That a sidewalk be constructed from the entrance to the Public Library to the front of the Town House, and thence to the entrance of the town officers' room.

VOTED, That the Selectmen constitute a committee to construct the sidewalk, and also to see that the sidewalk on the west side of School street is put in repair.

VOTED, That the proceeds of the sale of the building on the corner of Main and School streets, and an additional sum, not to exceed three hundred dollars, be appropriated for the grading of the lot under and adjoining the said building, and for the construction of the sidewalk in front of the Town House.

VOTED, That there be appropriated and paid to David A. Moulton, out of the town treasury, the sum of two hundred and twenty dollars and ninety-nine cents, the same being two-fifths of the amount paid by him to satisfy an execution of the Superior Court.

VOTED, That the Selectmen be instructed to see that the school house at Merrimac and the old school house at Merrimacport, be properly protected by lightning rods.

VOTED, That the matter of protecting the Town House by lightning rods be left to the Selectmen.

VOTED, That the stone fence on the westerly side of the Church Street Cemetery be rebuilt; that it be laid in cement, faced on both sides and suitably capped with wood. That a wood fence be built on the south line, and that the fence on the east line be suitably repaired; and that a committee of three be chosen to carry this vote into effect.

VOTED, That a sum not exceeding three hundred and fifty dollars be, and hereby is, appropriated for the said purposes.

VOTED, That the same committee have power to change the location of the hearse house, if in their opinion a better location can be found; and they also be empowered to act



with the committee already in existence, (Mr. Daniel Gould,) and having charge of the cemetery funds, with reference to the improvement of the said cemetery grounds, the expense to be paid out of said cemetery fund.

The following persons were chosen as that committee: James D. Pike, B. F. Sargent, F. S. Heath.

VOTED, That a sum not exceeded one hundred dollars be and hereby is appropriated to rebuild and repair the fences and improve the grounds of the lower cemetery, and a committee of three be chosen to carry this vote into effect.

VOTED, That the committee chosen to take charge of the repairs at the Church Street Cemetery, have charge also of those at the lower cemetery.

VOTED, That Ralph H. Sargent be added to this committee, with special reference to the lower cemetery.

VOTED, That the sum of one hundred dollars be appropriated to be expended under the direction of Post 114, G. A. R., for the observance of Memorial Day, May 30, 1878.

VOTED, That the Treasurer be authorized, under the direction of the Selectmen, to hire such sums of money as may be needed in anticipation of the payment of taxes.

VOTED, That a discount of five per cent. be allowed on all taxes paid within thirty days from the delivery of the tax list to the Collector, and that all taxes shall be paid on or before December 1st.

VOTED, That interest, at the rate of one per cent. per month, be charged on all taxes remaining unpaid after the first of December.

VOTED, To accept the following list of

*Jurors.*

George Adams,  
Abram L. Baxter,  
S. Stillman Blodgett,  
Fred M. Chase,  
J. B. Cilley,  
Gilbert G. Davis,  
Horace K. Emery,  
John J. England,  
Amzi S. French,  
George O. Goodwin,  
John W. Hunt,  
Henry Haskell,  
Henry M. Howe,  
Elisha C. Hopkins,  
George W. Kendrick,

Wm. F. Martins,  
George S. Prescott,  
John A. Patten,  
Thomas H. Patten,  
Edmund N. Sargent,  
Otis Sargent,  
M. Perry Sargent,  
Charles W. Sawyer,  
David M. Tukesbury,  
Nath'l D. Tilton,  
Charles E. Williams,  
David B. Wright,  
Phineas Chase,  
Moses C. Flanders,  
Frank E. Hale,

Elbridge M. Morse.

A resolution was passed unanimously instructing the Selectmen to prosecute all violations of the law regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors.

At a meeting of the legal voters of the town of Merrimac, held on Tuesday, July 16, 1878, by virtue of a warrant from the Selectmen.

*Moderator, M. Perry Sargent.*

VOTED, That a committee of two be chosen to procure 1,200 feet of the best quality of leather hose.

Gilman S. Hoyt and D. Warren Gould were chosen that committee; and it was voted that the Selectmen be added.

VOTED, That eight hundred feet of the hose be apportioned for use on the "Niagara" engine, and the remaining four hundred feet on the engine at Merrimacport.

## SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

---

The Selectmen, in submitting the annual report and schedule of receipts and expenditures for the year ending March 1, 1879, would say, that where discretionary power was given them, they have endeavored to exercise it in the interest of the town.

At our last annual meeting the town voted an appropriation of \$2,000 for repairs of highways and bridges. Also an additional \$300, and the proceeds from the sale of the building on the Poyen lot, for the construction of a sidewalk around the Town Hall, and for grading the adjacent grounds.

This we apportioned as follows:—

To highway District No. 1,	\$400 00
“ “ No. 2,	350 00
“ “ No. 3,	240 00
“ “ No. 4,	130 00

reserving the balance for repairs on Essex Merrimack and Rocks bridges, for removing snow, for supplying any deficiency in sidewalk appropriation, and for contingent purposes.

In the latter part of August, the surveyor in District No. 1, having exceeded his apportionment of money by more than



fifty dollars, without instructions from the Selectmen, and regardless of a remonstrance from one member of the Board, commenced work on a comparatively large scale, and soon presented bills aggregating more than one hundred and fifty dollars. For these bills we refused to draw orders and they remained unpaid.

We would suggest an appropriation of \$1,200 for the repairs of highways, sidewalks, culverts and railings, and present for your consideration the following apportionment of the same :—

To District No. 1,	\$400 00
“ No. 2,	350 00
“ No. 3,	225 00
“ No. 4,	125 00

leaving one hundred dollars in the hands of the Selectmen as a contingent highway fund. Also, an appropriation of \$500 for repairs of Essex Merrimack and Rocks bridges, and for removing snow. These bridges are liable to be expensive; but we think the sum named as large as the average expense of these items in previous years.

In accordance with a vote of the town, we have constructed around the Town House a brick sidewalk with granite edge-stones, costing some \$370.

The placing of lightning rods upon the Town House was left optional with us. A petition was received asking such protection, signed by the occupants of the building and many other citizens, and we complied with the request.

The roof of the building leaking somewhat, in the spring, we employed a slater to make thorough repairs of the same, at an expense of \$140. This fact coming to the knowledge of the doner of the edifice, Wm. P. Sargent, Esq., he, aided by our townsman, Wm. H. Haskell, Esq., presented the case

to the contractors, Messrs. Mead and Mason, who, although the leakage was evidently the fault of a sub-contractor, very gentlemanly remunerated the town by paying the whole amount. Mr. Sargent informs us that some other matters, not quite satisfactory to him and not in accordance with the specifications, will be made right by the contractors as soon as the weather becomes more suitable for the work.

The gross income of the Town Hall for the past year has been \$900. The janitor reports that the hall has been opened sixty-six times, for the following purposes, viz :—

Town meetings,	3
Political rallies,	11
Caucuses,	3
Lectures,	1
Concerts,	4
Masonic social supper,	1
Religious worship,	24
Temperance meetings,	6
Public entertainments,	11
Graduating exercises of Merrimac High School,	1
High School re-union,	1

We are able to report that the guide-boards in our town are in a good state of preservation.

The depredations of burglars created quite an excitement last spring ; they having effected as many as five or six forcible entrances at different times. The last when a private residence was entered, every room being ransacked except the sleeping room of the occupants which was securely fastened, and such valuables as could be conveniently carried, taken away, led to the calling of a meeting of our citizens to devise measures for the public safety. A committee was chosen to confer with us, and instructed to demand of us that we

offer a reward of \$300 for the apprehension of the offenders, and that we also put on a stated number of night watchmen.

Fully sympathizing with our citizens in their anxiety, we had been doing all that we felt authorized to do, with the exception of offering a reward. Feeling that so earnest an expression of public opinion ought to shield us from criticism and blame in incurring such an expenditure, we promptly established a vigilant night watch. The items of this expenditure may be seen in schedule, under the head of miscellaneous expenses.

We, being assured that State detectives were on track of the burglars, felt the offering of a reward at that time to be inexpedient, and the committee after consulting with us and investigating the matter, coincided with us in that opinion.

The opinion proved to be well founded, as in a few days the burglar was arrested, the property recovered and the offender is now serving a term in the State prison.

We have granted no license for the sale of intoxicating liquors, and have prosecuted but one person for violation of the liquor law, and he a resident of a neighboring city, arrested while retailing lager beer in our streets. He was convicted in the Haverhill Police Court, from which the case was sent up to the Superior Court and is now in the hands of the District Attorney. We would say further in explanation of this case, that lager beer, although a mild intoxicant, was being freely distributed through our streets in open violation of the law, and this arrest entirely remedied the evil. This should have been done earlier in the season, and would have been had we not first entrusted the matter to an officer whom we had good reasons to believe efficient, but who after repeated delays failed us at last.



Two fires have occurred during the year. A blaze in the shed in the rear of the Merrimac High school building on the morning of the 4th of July, and which was evidently the work of an incendiary, was soon extinguished, but incurred about twenty-five dollars expense for repairs. The other, the burning of Mr. Morse's shop, in June, was evidently occasioned by the careless disposal of a cast-away cigar.

At this fire the firemen burst some half-dozen lengths of fabric hose, in use but a few years, which reminded them that they were not fully prepared to meet an emergency, and the officers of the department petitioned for a town meeting which was held July 16th. At this meeting it was voted to purchase 1,200 feet of leather hose, and a committee was chosen to carry the vote into effect. The hose was purchased of Samuel Eastman & Co., of Concord, N. H., and with necessary changes in couplings cost upwards of fifteen hundred dollars. For this no appropriation was made as it was too late to assess it.

At the last annual meeting, the town voted an appropriation of \$2,000 for the reduction of the town debt. It will be seen that these exigencies, viz.: the cost of hose, the expense of night watchman, and the placing of lightning conductors upon the Town Hall, for all of which no appropriation has been made, have absorbed more than the amount above named. Notwithstanding these unforeseen expenses, we are enabled to show in our financial statement an actual reduction of the town debt.

These extraordinary expenditures properly come within the scope of Sec. 1, Chap. 209, Laws of 1875; an act making it obligatory on succeeding assessors to assess all sums expended which were not provided for in the previous assessment.

We present for your consideration the following Chapter from the Laws of 1878, and suggest that its adoption by the town may be conducive of good municipal government :—

[CHAP. 255 ]

AN ACT in relation to the Election of Selectmen and Assessors of Towns.

*Be it enacted, &c., as follows :*

SECT. 1. Any town in this Commonwealth which shall have accepted the provisions of this act in regard to selectmen at any annual meeting thereof, may, at such or any annual meeting thereafter, elect its selectmen for the period of three years in the following manner, namely : if the selectmen be three in number, the inhabitants may elect one person for the period of one year, one person for two years, and one person for three years ; and thereafter at each annual meeting may elect one selectman to serve for three years. If the selectmen be five in number, then they may elect one person for a period of one year, two persons for two years, and two persons for three years : and thereafter, at each annual meeting they may elect one or two selectmen, as the term of office of any one or two may expire in that year, to serve for three years. If the selectmen be seven in number, then they may elect two persons for a period of one year two persons for two years, and three persons for three years ; and at each annual meeting thereafter they may elect two or three selectmen as the term of office of two or three may expire in that year, to serve for three years. If the selectmen be nine in number, then they may elect three persons for a period of one year, three persons for two years, and three persons for three years ; and at each annual meeting thereafter they may elect three persons to serve for three years.

SECT. 2. Any town which shall have accepted the provisions of this act in regard to assessors at any annual meeting thereof, may elect at such or any annual meeting thereafter, three or five assessors for the term of three years in

the manner herein before provided for electing three or five selectmen, or it may elect four assessors, two for the period of one year, and two for two years; and at each annual meeting thereafter the inhabitants may elect two assessors to serve for two years.

SECT. 3. If any town votes at any annual meeting thereof to increase or diminish the number of its selectmen or assessors, it may do so by electing or omitting to elect such a number at that or any annual meeting thereafter, as will make the board of the required number with terms of office expiring in the manner provided in the first two sections hereof: *provided, however*, that the number shall not be diminished in such a manner as will prevent one member being elected in every year.

SECT. 4. Vacancies in either the board of assessors or of selectmen may be filled in the manner now provided by law, and the person chosen to fill any vacancy shall hold office during the unexpired term of the member whose place he fills.

SECT. 5. The acceptance of this act by any town may at any subsequent annual meeting thereof be revoked by such town, and thereupon this act shall cease to be operative in such town: *provided, however*, that such a revocation shall not affect the term of office of selectmen or assessors previously chosen. [*Approved May 15, 1878.*]

The committee on cemetery repairs, before commencing operations, represented to us that they could not rebuild as instructed by vote, without exceeding the appropriation; and while they did not deem it advisable to change the location of the hearse house, it was sadly in need of repairs for which there was no appropriation. That if we would grant an appropriation of seventy-five dollars for repairing the building, and draw orders in excess of the sum voted for repairs on the fences, they could proceed with the work. We granted them the seventy-five dollars for repairing the



building from the miscellaneous fund, already to small, and complied with their request in regard to the fences, and thereby assumed our share of the responsibility.

In regard to the valuation of the town, we reiterate what we said on pages seven and eight in the last annual report, and recommend that at the next meeting you elect a valuation committee and instruct them to be sworn, and to bring into the Assessors, on or before June 1st, a true and just list of the value of all real estate property in the town.

We would also call your attention to the subject of tax collection. At the last annual meeting it was voted that a discount of five per cent. be allowed on all taxes paid within thirty days, or say, by Aug. 1st. It was also voted that all taxes remaining unpaid, Dec. 1st, should pay interest at the rate of one per cent. a month. One and one-fourth per cent. discount per month, and one per cent. a month interest has not proved a sufficient inducement to secure the prompt payment of all taxes. If delinquent tax payers will study this interest and discount subject, they will find that while they are paying a rate of sixteen dollars on a thousand, with interest at the rate of twelve per cent. per annum after Dec. 1st, their neighbor, who avails himself of the opportunity to "save his discount," pays a rate of only \$15.20 on a thousand, which is a little less than the "mean" rate of the actual expenses of the town. But a point in this connection, more particularly demanding attention, is that about \$4,500 in old taxes remain unpaid, and seem to stand to the town in the relation of a permanent twelve per cent. loan, but never reaching maturity. It seems advisable that some action be taken by the town to place some limitation to this delinquency, and to instruct the Collector to recover the amounts, at least before an accumulation of successive

taxes re-enforced by usurious interest wholly annihilates the tax-payers equity in the property.

As Overseers of the Poor we contracted with the authorities of the town of Amesbury to board our inmates in the Amesbury alms-house, for the current year, at two dollars per week, each, and to pay all necessary expense which might be incurred on account of sickness, etc. Two of the number have died during the year: Olive Pressey, Dec. 2, aged 86, and John Hubbard, Jan. 23, 1879, aged 78. Two others, who derived their support from the town for a short time anterior to their death, have died during the year: John Sargent, died Feb. 20, aged 80, and A. A. Sargent, May 7, aged 38 years. We also contracted with Mr. Chaples to support Ann M. Waining, at \$1.75 per week.

Fifty-eight tramps have been lodged at the lock-up during the year, at an expense of \$18.18.

The balance of expense on account of the poor is for aid furnished to unfortunate persons, who from sickness and other causes were unable to fully support themselves. Taking into consideration the depression in business and the long continuation of "dull times," the small amount so expended may well give us occasion to congratulate the town upon the comfortable situation of its inhabitants.

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## SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

### TEACHING SCHOOLS, MERRIMAC.

F. Wiggin,	High School,	\$1,000 00
Ellen Gunnison,	"	190 00
Carrie P. Manning,	Grammar school,	105 00
Minnie B. Noyes,	" "	192 00

Nellie M. Smith, Intermediate	"	35 00	
Addie M. Griffing,	"	61 25	
Mattie J. Blaisdell,	"	192 50	
Lizzie S. Bartlett, 1st Primary	"	234 00	
Lizzie H. Nichols, 2d	"	135 90	
Carrie M. Evans, 2d	"	81 25	
		<hr/>	\$2 227 40

## INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

William Jones, repairs,		\$ 2 50	
Heath Brothers,	"	23 21	
C. H. DeLoid,	"	3 04	
W. H. Thomas,	"	2 85	
W. B. Chapman,	"	32 15	
T. L. Goodwin,	"	2 00	
		<hr/>	65 75
A. G. Whitcomb, supplies,		\$ 3 15	
W. I. Atwood,	"	95	
J. L. Hammett,	"	43 80	
C. S. Hall,	"	90	
J. D. Pike,	"	6 99	
C. H. D. Lord,	"	5 48	
E. W. Ricker,	"	14 44	
F. Wiggin,	"	5 00	
O. F. Seavey,	"	14 09	
		<hr/>	94 80
John A. Heath, care of school house,		\$37 00	
W. H. Fourtin,	"	34 00	
		<hr/>	71 00
Blodgett & Davis, coal,		\$78 16	
J. E. Currier, wood,		6 00	
J. A. Heath, sawing wood,		1 00	
W. H. Fourtin,	"	50	
		<hr/>	85 66



## SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

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Mary Griffin, cleaning rooms,	7 00
Total,	<u>\$2,551 61</u>

## TEACHING SCHOOLS, MERRIMACPORT.

J. W. Cheney, High school,	\$877 96
Hattie P. Cheney, Grammar school,	297 50
M. A. Tuson, Primary	255 00
	<u>\$1,430 46</u>

## INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

William Jones, repairs,	\$ 3 00	
J. W. Cheney, "	1 85	
Heath Brothers, "	1 25	
W. H. Thomas, "	43 32	
James Whittier, "	19 30	
Wm. Chase, "	69 32	
	<u>138 04</u>	
Hanscom Brothers, supplies,	\$ 1 00	
J. P. Mitchell, "	10 60	
Blodgett & Davis, "	2 05	
A. G. Whitcomb, "	5 40	
W. I. Atwood, "	78	
C. H. DeLoid, "	13 60	
E. W. Ricker, "	1 35	
J. W. Cheney, "	13 51	
Wm. Chase, "	4 96	
	<u>53 25</u>	
C. Huse, care of school house,		46 25
Mrs. Evans, cleaning rooms,	\$1 90	
Wm. Chase, cash paid for cleaning rooms,	3 45	
	<u>5 35</u>	
Blodgett & Davis, coal,	\$38 40	
Wm. Chase, wood and cutting,	17 00	

Wm. Merrill, wood,	2 00	
H. M. Fowler, cutting wood,	60	
	<hr/>	58 00
Total,		<hr/> <hr/> \$1,731 35

## TEACHING, BEAR HILL SCHOOL.

Mary M. Hunkins,	\$192 50	
Lois C. Edwards,	87 50	
	<hr/>	\$280 00

## INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

M. S. Gibbs, repairs,	\$34 31	
F. P. Goodwin, "	1 80	
H. J. Cushing, "	2 66	
Wm. Jones, "	1 50	
Geo. S. Prescott, "	21 81	
	<hr/>	62 08
E. W. Ricker, supplies,		35
Will H. Traverse, care of house,		3 70
George W. Sargent, wood,	\$12 25	
George A. Sargent, sawing wood,	2 50	
	<hr/>	14 75
Total,		<hr/> <hr/> \$360 88

## BIRCH MEADOW SCHOOL.

Nellie Clough. teaching,	\$137 50	
Calvin Sargent, repairs,	1 15	
Edgar S. Bartlett, care of house,	2 80	
G. W. Heath, wood,	\$4 00	
Calvin Sargent, sawing wood,	1 25	
	<hr/>	5 25
Total,		<hr/> <hr/> \$146 70

## HIGHLANDS SCHOOL.

Mary E. Hoyt, teaching,		\$140 80
George Jenkins, care of house,		5 58
Isaac W. Hoyt, wood,	\$4 00	
J. Jenkins, sawing wood,	1 00	
	<hr/>	5 00
Total,		<hr/> <hr/> \$151 38

## GENERAL SCHOOL INCIDENTALS.

Rice, Kendall & Co., paper,	\$5 50	
James V. Smiley, " .	8 60	
Knight, Adams & Co., "	2 95	
C. S. Hall, printing, etc.,	19 50	
J. L. Hammett, ink, etc.,	6 15	
A. G. Whitcomb, furniture, etc.,	24 05	
N. E. School Furnishing Co., furniture, etc.,	47 45	
B. & M. R. R., freight,	30	
H. J. Cushing, copies of course of study,	1 75	
	<hr/>	116 25
Total for schools,		<hr/> <hr/> \$5,058 17

Appropriation,	\$4,800 00	
Dog money,	75 13	
Income Mass. School Fund,	188 54	
	<hr/>	\$5,063 67
Balance unexpended,	5 50	
	<hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> \$5,058 17



## HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

*District No. 1, Wm. H. Blodgett, Surveyor.*

Apportionment,	\$400 00	
Expended by surveyor,	491 52	
	<hr/>	\$491 52
Overdrawn by surveyor,	91 52	
Expended by Little & Lancaster,	22 00	
Expended by A. E. Goodwin,	5 00	
	<hr/>	27 00
Removing snow,		41 99
		<hr/>
Total,		\$560 51

*District No. 2, Moses Stevens, Surveyor.*

Apportionment,	\$350 00	
Expended by surveyor,	350 00	
	<hr/>	350 00
Removing snow,		66 13
		<hr/>
Total,		416 13

*District No. 3, F. P. Goodwin, Surveyor.*

Apportionment,	\$240 00	
Expended by surveyor,	308 72	
	<hr/>	308 72
Overdrawn by surveyor,	68 72	
Removing snow,		55 65
		<hr/>
Total,		364 37

*District No. 4, Calvin Sargent, Surveyor.*

Apportionment,	\$130 00	
Expended by surveyor,	105 29	105 29
	<hr/>	
Balance unexpended,	24 71	
Removing snow,		\$18 81
		<hr/>
Total,		\$124 10
Repairs on Rocks Bridge,	\$78 43	
“ on Essex Merrimac		
bridge,	244 62	
	<hr/>	
		\$323 05

## COST OF SIDEWALK.

W. H. Blodgett, sand and		
hauling,	\$15 75	
M. Goodchild, brick,	71 25	
Blodgett & Davis, hauling brick,	6 00	
B. & M. R. R., freight on “	10 50	
W. B. Chapman, labor,	77 06	
Jas. Lawton, “	5 63	
Harriman & Lolly, edge stones,	190 00	
	<hr/>	
		\$376 19
Cr. by cash from brick sold,		3 32
		<hr/>
Total cost of sidewalk,		\$372 87
Paid by grading committee for		
work cor. Main and School		
streets,		\$6 24
		<hr/>
Total for highways and bridges,		
sidewalk, etc.,		\$2,167 27
		<hr/>

Appropriation for highways and bridges,	\$2,000 00	
Appropriation for sidewalk,	\$300 00	
Proceeds of sale of old build- ing.	65 00	
	<u>          </u>	\$365 00
Total,		\$2,365 00
Balance unexpended		<u>          </u> <u>\$197 73</u>

Paid David A. Moulton on ac- count of expense as Road Commissioner of Amesbury, 1872,	\$220 99
Appropriation,	220 99

NOTE. — Since the above was put in type, a storm has occurred which will probably involve an expense of \$150.00 for removing snow.

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#### POOR ACCOUNT.

Paid town of Amesbury, for board of Dolly Sargent and Eliza Patten, 1 year; —104 weeks at \$2 per week,	\$208 00	
Board of Olive Pressey, 39 weeks, at \$2 per week,	78 00	
Board of John Hubbard, 47 weeks, at \$2 per week,	94 00	
	<u>          </u>	\$380 00
Extra expense on account of Olive Pressey and J. Hubbard, 9 weeks, at 25 cents,	2 25	



Medical attendance and medicine,	33 50	
Extra fuel,	7 00	
Burial expenses,	35 00	
	<hr/>	77 75
Paid town of Amesbury on account of military settlements.		
Board of 3 McCabe children, 1 year,	\$102 34	
Aid to Mrs. Hawkswood and 2 children,	11 70	
Aid to Mrs. Laroche and family,	47 20	
	<hr/>	161 24
Total paid town of Amesbury on poor account,		618 99
Paid G. A. Titcomb, supplies to M. Berry,	2 00	
J. D. Pike, " "	18 54	
J. McNanie, " "	26 00	
Blodgett & Davis, " "	7 00	
	<hr/>	53 54
Paid Mrs. Kendrick, board of A. A. Sargent,	\$48 00	
Emerson & Howe, medicine, "	9 08	
F. L. Parker, " "	3 70	
H. J. Cushing, medical atten., "	42 00	
G. B. Hoyt, undertaker's fees,	5 00	
	<hr/>	107 78
Paid J. H. Cleary, supplies to John Jenkins,	\$21 11	
Three-fifths paid by Amesbury,	12 67	
	<hr/>	8 44
Paid Blodgett & Davis, supplies to John Sargent.	\$6 09	
Paid H. J. Cushing, medical atten- dance, John Sargent,	4 75	
	<hr/>	10 84
Paid A. P. Chaples, board Ann M. Waining,		91 00

Blodgett & Davis, supplies R. S. Patten,	115 27
“ “ P. Whalan,	
paid by Newburyport,	33 23
Paid Blodgett & Davis, supplies, J. C. Parker,	5 18
“ “ M. A. Sargent,	14 00
“ “ Alex Grant,	7 00
Paid O. F. Seavey, medical attendance,	
Alexander White,	5 50
Paid City of Newburyport, supplies to	
Caroline Sargent,	60 13
Paid town of Salisbury, supplies to	
L. Warner's family,	20 00
Paid F. E. Little, supplies to family, to	
be refunded,	10 00

## EXPENSE OF TRAMPS.

Paid F. E. Little, supplies to lockup,	7 69	
J. D. Pike, “	3 69	
Blodgett & Davis, “	2 00	
J. H. Lawson, “	90	
J. H. Cleary, “	40	
Mrs. J. Lawton, cleaning lockup,	3 50	
	<hr/>	18 18
		<hr/>
		\$1,145 85

## RELIEF UNDER INDIGENT SOLDIER ACT.

B. A. Sargent,	43 71
James Roe,	78 00
Moses Bailey,	41 71
B. F. Parker,	41 71
John Jenkins,	70 30
Matthew Barry	25 14

P. Whalan,	78 19	
Due from State,	<u>\$378 76</u>	378 76
Total,		<u>1,524 61</u>
Appropriation,		<u>1,200 00</u>
Overdrawn,		<u><u>\$324 61</u></u>

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### MISCELLANEOUS.

## EXPENSES ON SARGENT HALL.

A. J. Scott, stock and labor,	\$8 58	
First National Bank, repairs,	16 74	
Geo. S. Prescott, “	4 48	
Heath Bros., “	2 62	
Chas. H. DeLoid, “	1 45	
M. S. Gibbs, “	2 00	
Geo. S. Prescott, lightning rods,	165 55	
John J. Clark, repairs,	\$140 39	
Paid by Mead and Mason,	<u>140 00</u>	
Balance expense to town,		39
W. H. Haskell, referee,		20 00
J. H. Cleary, supplies,		11 36
W. I. Atwood, “		44
Blodgett & Davis, “		10 66
Little's Express, “		3 25
G. W. Woodman, “		4 00
R. A. Sargent, janitor,	\$90 15	
M. W. Eastman, “	1 25	
	<u>91 40</u>	
W. B. Chapman, labor and expense on tablet,		16 60
C. S. Hall, care town clock, 1 year,		25 00
	<u>          </u>	<u>\$384 52</u>



C. C. Morse & Son, printing town reports,	66	60	
Little's Express, hand cuffs, badges, &c.,	25	54	
"    bill expressing and book			
for records,	6	85	
C. S. Hall, printing,	10	50	
Villager Office, warrants for two meetings,	14	00	
J. Pattinson, police badge,	1	00	
S. P. Jackman,    "	3	00	
W. H. Blodgett, trucking,		72	
Wm. Lunt, care of lower cemetery,	10	00	
Heath Bros., repairing shed at school house,	19	28	
Wm. Jones, painting    "	5	50	
Post Office, box rent, 1 year,	1	00	
Joseph Oak, horse hire,	1	25	
J. Q. Bradish, stationery,	1	00	
A. W. Leonard,    "	2	88	
L. F. Lawrence & Co."	2	50	
Bailey Sargent,    " & postage	3	59	
	—	9	97
T. Groom & Co., tax book,	1	50	
Est. G. B. Hoyt, return of deaths,	2	75	
John B. Heath,    "	4	75	
	—	7	50
Judkins & Haskell, repairing hearse,		56	62
John B. Heath, hire of hearse,		5	00
C. E. Rowell, expense on watering trough,	16	98	
J. H. Lawson, ex. liquor case,	23	00	
"    "    burglar    "	1	75	
	—	24	75
Geo. S. Prescott, lightning rods for			
school houses,	143	75	
	—		815 83

## NIGHT WATCH.

James Pattinson,	22 00	
C. S. Hall,	24 00	
J. A. Perry,	28 00	
J. O. Nealand,	112 00	
J. B. Heath,	150 00	
Ed. H. Sargent,	2 00	
	<hr/>	338 00
Carried to Cemetery repair account,		75 00
Total,		<hr/> <u>\$1,228 83</u>

## EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES.

Lightning rods for Sargent Hall and school houses,	\$309 30	
Night Watch,	338 00	
	<hr/>	647 30
Deducting the extraordinary expenses from the total of miscellaneous, leaves		581 53
Appropriation,	\$600 00	
Unexpended balance,	18 47	
	<hr/>	<u>\$581 53</u>

## TOWN OFFICERS.

J. S. Clement, Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of Poor,	\$200 00
S. S. Blodgett, Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of Poor,	125 00
E. N. Sargent, Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of Poor,	125 00
O. F. Seavey, School Committee,	55 00

H. J. Cushing,	School Committee,	55 00	
C. M. Dinsmore,	"	13 33	
Wm. Chase,	"	41 67	
Bailey Sargent,	Collector,	182 69	
"	Treasurer, and paying		
State Aid,		13 50	
Bailey Sargent,	Constable, warning		
town meetings,		10 00	
Bailey Sargent,	Town Clerk,	41 48	
A. J. Scott,	notifying town officers,	75	
			<u>\$863 42</u>
Appropriation,	\$800 00		
Overdrawn,	63 42		
			<u>\$863 42</u>

## POLICE.

A. J. Scott,	\$6 25	
P. J. Neal,	27 00	
J. H. Lawson,	50 00	
W. B. Chapman,	37 44	
		<u>\$120 69</u>

## SCHOOLBOOKS FURNISHED BY COMMITTEE.

M. Bailey's family,	20	
J. Scanlan's "	1 00	
T. Grant's "	40	
B. H. Battis's "	40	
W. Gilday's "	4 94	
M. Burke's "	65	
Mrs. Lee's "	3 15	
P. Whalan,	1 32	
Evans,	15	
L. Sherman,	1 25	
		<u>\$13 46</u>



## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Appropriation,		\$1,000 00
Paid Niagara Engine Co.,	\$525 00	
“ Agile “	440 00	
“ “ “ repairs,	55 75	
	<hr/>	\$1,020 75
Paid Sam'l Eastman & Co., 1,244 feet hose, at \$1.20,		\$1,492 80
Paid Sam'l Eastman & Co., 2 boxes, at \$1.50,		3 00
Paid B. & M. R. R., freight,		7 42
“ Committee's services,		5 00
“ Hunneman & Co., couplings,		15 00
Total,		<hr/> <hr/> \$2,543 97

## PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Paid Wm. H. Hubbard, treasurer,	\$500 00
Appropriation,	<hr/> 500 00

## PAID FOR STATE AID.

Ann Edwards,	\$48 00
H. C. Flanders,	48 00
J. Handley,	18 00
T. S. Bradley,	18 00
J. W. Sargent,	72 00
Wm. F. Martins,	72 00
H. Tozier,	48 00
R. Kennett,	48 00
Geo. F. Bailey,	36 00
Mary E. G. Gay,	8 00
	<hr/> \$416 00

## CEMETERY COMMITTEE

On repairs make the following report:

## UPPER CEMETERY.

Paid Heath Bros., labor and material building and repairing fences,	\$106 83	
Paid W. H. Thomas, painting fence and hearse house,	50 13	
Paid Heath Bros., labor and material, re- pairing hearse house,	61 00	
Paid Moses Williams, rebuilding wall 344 feet, at .58,	\$199 52	
Extra on foundation,	15 00	
	<hr/>	214 52
Paid Bailey & Perkins, 344 feet cap, at .15,	51 60	
Paid Heath Bros., laying cap,	19 75	
" W. H. Thomas, painting cap,	24 18	
" N. L. Howe, bolts for cap,	6 72	
" D. B. Mozier, labor,	3 83	
" James Lawton, labor.	3 00	
" Grant & Boothroyd, repairing north wall,	1 20	
	<hr/>	\$542 76

## LOWER CEMETERY.

Paid C. W. Noyes, stonework,	\$17 45	
" Blodgett & Davis, lime,	2 30	
" R. H. Sargent, teaming, labor, one-half cask lime,	10 13	
Paid Bailey & Perkins, 263 feet cap, at .15,	39 45	
Paid Heath Bros., material and labor on cap,	8 73	

# SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

33

Paid W. H. Thomas, painting cap,	18 21	
“ N. L. Howe, bolts for “	4 32	
	<hr/>	\$100 59
Total,		643 35
Appropriation, Upper cemetery,	\$350 00	
“ Lower “	100 00	
By Selectmen for hearse house,	75 00	
From sale of old fence,	6 00	
	<hr/>	
Total,		\$531 00
Excess of appropriations and receipts,		<u>112 35</u>

## CEMETERY ACCOUNT.

DR.

1879. To cash from last year,	\$371 83	
Interest,	15 37	
Sale of lots,	35 00	
	<hr/>	422 20

CR.

By cash paid, improvements,	\$217 00	
Balance in Savings Bank,		<u>205 20</u>

DANIEL GOULD, Treas.

Merrimac, Jan. 1, 1879.

## POLICE OFFICERS REPORT.

NUMBER OF ARRESTS DURING THE YEAR.

For drunkenness,	7
“ disturbance,	6
“ assault,	2

Liquor nuisance,	1
Assisted home under influence of liquor,	6
Instances of stolen property returned,	4

Tramps lodged at lock-up in March, 1878, 4 ; April, 3 ;  
May, 4 ; June, 6 ; July, 0 ; Aug , 6 ; Sept., 0 ; Oct., 7 ;  
Nov., 10 ; Dec., 3 ; Jan , 13 ; Feb., 2 ; Total, 58.

JAS. H. LAWSON,	}	<i>Constables</i>
P. J. NEAL,		
ANDREW SCOTT,		<i>and</i>
WM. B. CHAPMAN,		



## STATISTICS FROM VALUATION BOOK.

Valuation of real estate,	\$683,440 00
"    personal property,	351,525 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,034,965 00
Non-resident bank valuation,	\$81,840 00
Total tax assessed,	\$17,791 44
Rate of taxation, \$16 per	\$1,000 00
Number of polls,	616
Rate on polls,	\$2 00
Number of real estate owners,	365
"    non-resident tax-payers,	78
"    acres of land,	4,930
"    dwellings,	422
"    horses,	230
"    cows,	210
"    sheep,	24

## SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

## BELONGING TO THE TOWN.

Sargent Hall building,	\$20,000 00
School houses,	18,000 00
Public Library,	2,500 00
Fire apparatus,	2,500 00
Cemeteries, hearse house and hearse,	2,000 00
Law reports,	300 00
Town standards,	150 00
Lock-up and town landings,	300 00
	<hr/>
	<u>\$45,750 00</u>

## TREASURER AND COLLECTOR'S ACCOUNT.

1878.

March 1,	By cash and uncollected taxes,	\$4,650 39
22,	Received for use of school room,	2 00
23,	Received from sale of old building corner Main and School streets,	65 00
May 1,	Received of Merrimack Savings bank, hired,	1,200 00
June 4,	" " " "	2,000 00
	" of J. L. Merrill, bal. of rent,	33 33
Aug. 1,	" from sale of brick,	3 32
Dec. 2,	" from Mead & Mason, repairs on town house,	140 00
Dec. 10,	Received from State Treasurer, corp tax,	296 81
	" " bank tax,	86 52
	" " state aid,	426 00

1879.

Jan. 13,	Received from city of Newburyport, sup- port of P. Whalan,	29 73
Jan. 21,	Received from County Treas'r, dog money,	75 13
25,	" " State Treas'r, income Mass. school fund,	188 54
Feb. 11,	Received from School Committee, sale of apples,	6 00
Feb. 12,	Received from E. C. Hopkins, sale of cemetery fence,	6 00
	Received for school books, refunded,	8 01
	" from R. A. Sargent, one year's rent,	\$225 00
	Received from G. E. Ricker, one year's rent,	250 00
	Received from 1st National Bank, one year's rent,	275 00
	Received for use of Sargent Hall,	159 25
		<hr/> 909 25

Received two-fifths B. Sargent's col-	
lections, Amesbury taxes,	50 35
Received from Amesbury, J. Jenkins acct.,	12 67
“ interest on taxes,	164 61
“ from Amesbury, account A. Bag-	
ley's estate,	15 80
Tax list, 1878, committed for collection,	19,100 88
Additions to tax list,	24 00
	<hr/>
	\$29,504 34

*Cr.*

By paid, County tax,	\$ 1,011 40
“ State tax,	560 00
“ Bank tax,	1,237 09
“ Selectmen's orders,	21,290 49
By uncollected taxes, 1876,	\$221 49
“ “ 1877,	894 98
“ “ 1878,	3,495 82
	<hr/>
	4,612 29
By cash on hand,	793 07
	<hr/>
	\$29,504 34

## NOTE AND

Paid Merrimack Savings Bank,

“ “

Haverhill Five Cent Savings Bank,

Note to order of Town Treasurer, on account of Poyen property,

Paid interest on notes to order of Town Treasurer on account of Poyen property,

Paid town of Amesbury two-fifths interest on 6 per cent, 10 year notes, and 5 per cent. town bonds,

## ABATEMENTS.

Two-fifths of Amesbury's old lists,	\$137 90	
Collector's list for 1876,	68 99	
“ “ 1877,	68 80	
“ “ 1878,	63 60	
	<hr/>	\$339 29



## INTEREST ACCOUNT.

Note, \$1,200 00	Interest, \$ 15 00	\$1,215 00
2,000 00	16 11	2,016 11
	140 00	140 00
500 00		500 00
	110 00	110 00
	880 00	880 00
<u>\$3,700 00</u>	<u>\$1,161 11</u>	<u>\$4,861 11</u>

## INTEREST, DISCOUNT, AND ABATEMENTS.

Abatements,	\$ 339 29	
Interest,	1,161 11	
Discount,	708 28	
	<u>          </u>	\$2,208 68
Appropriation,	\$2,000 00	
Overdrawn,	208 68	
	<u>          </u>	\$2,208 68

## FINANCIAL

*The town is indebted as follows:*

To Haverhill Five Cent Savings Bank,	\$3,500 00
Three notes \$500 each, acct. Poyen property,	1,500 00
Two-fifths Amesbury town bonds, \$20,000 00	8,000 00
“ “ 10 year notes, 20,000 00	8,000 00
To Engine companies,	
Outstanding demands,	

*Cr.*

By two-fifths Amesbury's uncollected taxes,	
Due from State for State Aid,	\$484 00
“ aid to Indigent Soldiers,	378 76
“ Bank and Corporation taxes,	
Due from rents from tenants in Town Hall,	
Cash in hands of Town Treasurer,	
Uncollected taxes,	

Extraordinary expenses for which no appropriations were made.

Lightning rods for school houses and town hall,	\$ 309 30
New hose,	1,523 22
Night watch,	338 00
	<hr/>
	\$2,170 52

## STATEMENT.

Interest to March 1, 1879,	\$ 44 00	\$3,544 00
“ “	9 84	1,509 84
“ “	100 00	8,100 00
“ “	80 00	8,080 00
		833 30
		150 00
Total liabilities,		<u>\$22,217 14</u>

\$ 153 55

862 76

187 54

87 50

793 07

4,612 29

Total credits, 6,696 71

Town's indebtedness, \$15,520 43

Town's indebtedness, March 1, 1878, \$16,817 49

“ “ “ 1879, 15,520 43

Reduction of debt, \$1,297 06

Appropriation, 2,000,00

Deficiency, 702 94

JOHN S. CLEMENT, } *Selectmen*  
 S. S. BLODGETT, } *of*  
 E. N. SARGENT, } *Merrimac.*

## RECAPITULATION.

Support of schools,	\$5,058 17
"        " poor,	1,524 61
Highways and bridges,	2 167 27
Note and interest,	4,861 11
Fire department,	2 543 97
Town officers and police,	984 11
Public library,	500 00
State aid,	416 00
Memorial Day,	100 00
Cemetery,	643 35
Miscellaneous,	1,228 83
Abatements and discounts,	1,047 57
D. A. Moulton,	220 99
School books,	13 46
State tax,	560 00
County tax,	1,011 40
	<hr/>
	\$22,880 84



## PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORT.

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We consider it a good showing for our town that 21,716 volumes were taken from the library during the past year.

We return thanks to the Hub Publishing Co. for a set of their published works; to G. G. Larkin, Esq., of Exeter, N. H., for his liberal gift of 40 new and interesting volumes; to the Hon. G. B. Loring for valuable public works; also, to the ladies of Merrimac for hanging the beautiful "Testimonial" given to them by the Carriage Makers' Association, upon our walls. We expect to have the opportunity of returning thanks to one of our trustees, Dr James R. Nichols, who has promised us a set of the Encyclopædia Britannica, which, when completed, will consist of 21 large volumes and will be a very valuable addition to our library.

We would remind the town that the support of the library comes not from the taxes, but from the income of Sargent Hall, and would recommend that the town appropriate of that income for the coming year the same amount as it appropriated last year.

By the gift of Sargent Hall, the town not only has a place for all its public meetings, but also an income nearly twice as large as is necessary for the support of its library.

Respectfully submitted in behalf of trustees,

WM. H. HUBBARD, Secretary.

JOHN S. CLEMENT,	}	<i>Trustees</i>
DR. JAMES R. NICHOLS,		
WM H. HUBBARD,		<i>of</i>
GEORGE O. GOODWIN,		
ISAAC B. LITTLE,		
GEORGE ADAMS,		
WM. CHASE,	} <i>Public Library.</i>	

## TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year ending March 1, 1879. Merrimac Public Library in account with Wm. H. Hubbard, Treas.

Dr.

To cash paid for books,	\$288 70	
"    "    printing,	7 90	
"    "    binding catalogues,	7 50	
"    "    3,000 library cards,	11 00	
"    "    binding books,	16 16	
"    "    5 years policy on library and furniture,	25 00	
To cash paid for $\frac{1}{2}$ bank check book,	50	
"    "    expressage,	1 60	
"    "    Secretary and Treasurer,	15 00	
"    "    Librarian,	175 00	
"    "    C. S. Hall for printing,	13 68	
	<hr/>	\$561 91
To balance. Cash on hand,		2 72
		<hr/>
		\$564 64

Cr.

By cash on hand, March 1, 1878,	\$ 41 60	
"    received for town appropriation,	500 00	
"    "    library fines,	23 04	
	<hr/>	\$564 64

# ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF MERRIMAC.

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The third annual report of the Superintending School Committee of the town of Merrimac, enables them to state that the schools are in a prosperous condition, and have made commendable progress during the past year.

The future interest and welfare of our country lie in the best organization of, and devotion to, our common school system ; also in the good education of all the children in the English studies, together with a thorough moral training and proper discipline by the teacher.

The best governed States are those in which the greatest attention is given to moral and intellectual cultivation. The legislation is the poorest when the least cultivated persons are chosen to represent the people in the Halls of Legislation. While we recognize the fact, and are thankful for it; that so much harmony prevails in our schools and that much interest is manifested by the parents and citizens for their welfare, by visiting the schools and many other ways of approval, and by a disposition to co-operate with the committee and teachers who are earnestly endeavoring to promote the best interests of the schools ; we also recognize the fact that some parents do not understand this need of co-opera-

tion, but object to the teacher's discipline of their children, upholding them against the teachers by fault-finding, break the harmony that should exist between parents and teachers, and thus destroy the influence of the teacher and usefulness of the school.

The committee thinking it advisable to give more prominence to the term examinations in the High, and Grammar, schools, have adopted written examinations for two terms of the year, but retain the usual public oral examination at the close of the year.

They also have adopted monthly reports in all the grades but the Primary, for scholars to carry home for their parents to examine and sign. In this way they hope to awaken in the parents a greater interest in the progress and conduct of their children at school, as well as to incite in the scholars a greater ambition for study and good deportment.

On account of the large number of scholars in the High school at the corner, the committee thought best to furnish an assistant; so Miss Ellen Gunnison has been employed during the year, three fifths of the time.

Owing to the small number of scholars in the Landing District, it was found not advisable to continue the school there. That school was therefore suspended, resulting in a benefit to the children, as it gives them the privilege of Merrimacport schools, which are two months or more longer.

Among the various studies and other exercises pursued in the schools, singing is practiced in a general way. The effect upon scholars as a change from the routine of study is favorable.

It is now known that nearly all children can learn to sing when properly trained. The committee intend the coming year to give music such prominence that scholars, especially in



the higher grades, will have an opportunity of securing a fair musical education.

Music has an aspiring tendency to the young and to the old. How many elderly persons now express a wish that they had learned music when young.

It is evident that our schools in the present condition of our town, or as it is likely to be for the next few years from the increase of scholars, will require a higher grading, to meet the wants of the people. To meet that necessity one High school only will be needed; dispensing with the one at Merrimacport, and placing there a more advanced Grammar school. This would involve the necessity of erecting a new High school building at the south of the centre of the town so as to accommodate scholars from both villages. It may be a few years before this change will be advisable. In the mean time to prevent the over-crowded state of the centre High school, it may be necessary to go back to the method adopted a few years since and send the scholars from Bear Hill and Lower Corner to the Merrimacport High school.

However the schools may be graded parents are not under the necessity of having their children study Latin in order to graduate with honor. The higher branches of English may take its place and be pursued with equal advantage. There would not probably be many of the graduates who would be benefited by the study of Latin, as they would if they pursued the studies of the English course and become proficient in them. This is the opinion of many of our eminent men. The best literature of the ages is being rapidly translated into the English, which is likely to be the common language of the future. Still we acknowledge that the study of Latin does afford mental discipline, and furnishes one method of obtaining a good knowledge of the English language.

Every year requires some additional repairs and outlays upon the school buildings. The town cannot afford to see its property wasting or unsightly.

The older school house at Merrimacport had not been painted for many years, and therefore needed painting badly ; so that, and the fence along the line of the street, have been painted with two coats at an expense of about one hundred dollars. Repairs have also been made upon the school house at Bear Hill.

For school statistics we have the following items : Whole number of pupils in the grades below the High schools, three hundred and thirty-seven ; average number, three hundred and eight. The whole expense of these grades two thousand, seven hundred and six dollars and twenty-eight cents. The average cost of each scholar for the year, eight dollars and seventy-nine cents, or average cost per week, twenty-six cents. Whole number of scholars in Merrimac High school, fifty ; average number, forty-nine ; the expense of the school for the year, one thousand, two hundred and fifty-three dollars and fourteen cents ; cost of each scholar for the year, twenty five dollars and fifty-seven cents ; or cost per week, sixty-seven cents.

Whole number of scholars in Merrimacport High school, twenty ; average number, seventeen ; the expense of the school for the year, nine hundred and eighty-two dollars and fifty cents ; the cost of each scholar for the year, fifty-seven dollars and eighty cents, or cost per week, one dollar and fifty-two cents.

It is the unanimous opinion of the committee that the town should not by its appropriations reduce the length of any of the schools. Therefore they recommend that the appropriation for schools be the same as the past year.

## MERRIMAC HIGH SCHOOL.

MR. FRANK WIGGIN, Principal.

MISS ELLEN GUNNISON, Assistant.

Our High School has had another year of prosperity. Our principal labors every year to attain higher excellence as a teacher. He gives his energies to the welfare of the schools. The results accruing therefrom are manifest to any one who will visit the school-room. The closing examination last year gave more credit both to teacher and scholars than any previous one. Your committee are glad to report, not only the thoroughness and culture, but also the excellent deportment of the scholars, both in and around the school-room.

As one teacher could not do thorough work with so many scholars, having sixteen recitations, it was thought best to furnish an assistant, at least part of the time. So Miss Gunnison was engaged for three-fifths of the time. She has proved herself a very efficient teacher, not only in her thoroughness and methods of instruction, but also in her discipline. The parents and friends of the school may well be pleased that we have so able an assistant.

Monthly reports of the scholars to their parents have been adopted this past year, with good results. As the scholars have found that every recitation was marked, they have been incited to more thorough study.

Regulations in regard to scholars averaging at least sixty per cent. for the whole year, in their studies, before they can be promoted to a higher class, also in regard to the examination of one term before entering upon another, and also in regard to rhetorical exercises, have been adopted during the past year.

The committee believe such rules eminently practical, and so essential to the prosperity and character of the school.



The exercises, last summer, by the graduating class, were pronounced excellent by all who enjoyed them. Their original parts showed as much school training and talent, as are often found at our higher seminaries.

The present graduating class numbers seven boys and four girls.

The school will close about the 18th of March, with a public examination.

### MERRIMAC GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*Summer Term* — MISS CARRIE P. MANNING, Teacher.

*Winter Term* — MISS MINNIE B. NOYES, Teacher.

The committee consider the summer term a profitable one. The teacher was earnest and faithful. Whenever the school was visited, the order was good and the recitations well conducted. At the close of this term Miss Manning accepted a more lucrative position in Brookline.

The winter term commenced under rather unfavorable auspices, which caused some friction the first part of the term between the teacher and scholars. On this account, some of the pupils were not inclined to accept the teacher's management of the school. In time, however, they submitted to the powers that be.

Since then they have behaved themselves in a creditable manner, and have been glad to accept their teacher's discipline.

The teacher, all through the term, has labored untiringly for her school; and by her thoroughness, fidelity, and good methods of instruction, has proved herself a good teacher for the position.

The public examination at the close, was very satisfactory to



the committee; and we think it must have been also to the many visitors present.

### MERRIMAC INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

NELLIE M. SMITH, ADDIE M. GRIFFING, MILLIE J. BLAISDELL, Teachers.

The committee felt that they were very fortunate in securing the services of Miss Smith, who had had successful experience in teaching, and came unusually well recommended. The school-room gave unmistakable evidence that the committee had not been mistaken in their anticipations. Miss Smith very soon gained the love and respect of the scholars to such an extent, that they cheerfully complied with every wish and instruction from her.

At the end of four weeks, the committee consented to her accepting an urgent call to a neighboring seminary, at a much larger salary.

The last seven weeks of the term was kept by Miss Griffing, who, though having had considerable experience in teaching in High Schools, failed to meet the expectations of the committee, not only in discipline but in methods of instruction.

At the commencement of the fall term, Miss Blaisdell commenced her labors with the school, and, during the early part of the term, it was thought that under her instruction good progress was being made. At the closing examination, the exercises were of such a character, and so arranged, as to be pleasing and entertaining, but failed to show that progress in the studies that had been confidently expected. The order at the latter part of the term was not entirely satisfactory.

## MERRIMAC SECOND PRIMARY SCHOOL.

MISS LIZZIE H. NICHOLS, Teacher.

The continuance in this school of the same teacher, whose efforts were so successful last year, has produced good results. Careful management on the part of the teacher, and a desire to learn on the part of the scholars, has given to the school a good degree of improvement.

Early in the fall term, Miss Nichols was taken seriously sick, and her place was filled temporarily by Miss Carrie M. Evans, of this place, who had had some experience in teaching, and who, considering the disadvantages under which she labored, was very successful in winning the love and good will of her scholars. After the Christmas vacation, Miss Nichols so far regained her health as to be able to resume her labors in the school. The closing examination was very satisfactory to the committee.

## MERRIMAC FIRST PRIMARY SCHOOL.

MISS LIZZIE BARTLETT, Teacher.

This school has been very successful through the year. Miss Bartlett has proved herself the right teacher in the right place. Her manner toward her pupils is always pleasant and gentle, yet her discipline is good, and the progress of her school satisfactory.

The size of the school has increased during the year, making the whole number, last term, forty-six.

The teacher has been using the word method in place of the A B C method in the lowest classes, with good results. Much time is thereby saved over the old method of instruction.

## MERRIMACPORT HIGH SCHOOL.

J. W. CHENEY, Teacher.

This school is very quiet and finely disciplined. One feels, as he enters, like entering into a large counting room where each one is busy attending to his own work.

The principal of the school is a thoroughly educated man, with fine moral culture, and a good disciplinarian, whose faculties well adapt him as a teacher.

The committee are willing to bear testimony to his faithfulness to his school, to the close application and attention to the work before him ; and he by his kindness wins the esteem of his pupils, thereby getting from them in return commensurate progress in their literary and moral advancements.

He has also fine musical powers and culture, which he uses daily in his school.

In view of such qualifications he should have twice the number of scholars under his charge.

In the last two and a half years, Mr. Cheney has greatly improved the school in its classification and scholarship.

He has three pupils who are fitting for college ; and there is every prospect that they will be thoroughly fitted on Graduation day.

These scholars in going through the regular course, in addition to Latin, took up Greek as an outside study without interfering with the regular course.

He has had an exercise for pronouncing, which has been pursued by the whole school during the past year very profitably ; also recitations, compositions, and concert readings, and, without mentioning all, we would speak with pleasure of his class of "memory gems," an exercise consisting of readings and recitations selected from the best writers.



## MERRIMACPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

MISS HATTIE CHENEY, Teacher.

Miss Cheney having taught this school one year and two terms has shown herself unmistakably to be well qualified for an efficient teacher in point of education, energy, tact, and a fine voice for singing, which she uses to advantage with her scholars and which they appreciate by singing with her.

She has good qualities as a disciplinarian, and by connecting her musical ability at the organ with the gymnastic exercises of the scholars she is enabled to bring that department well nigh to perfection.

By attention to her duties and hard work, the school has shown good signs of improvement. One class from this school will go into the High school, and one class from the Primary will enter this, on the next term. At the examination a goodly number of the friends were present, the exercises giving good satisfaction.

## MERRIMACPORT PRIMARY SCHOOL.

MRS. MARY A. TUSON, Teacher.

With years of experience in teaching, an evenness of temper, ease of manner, and with general qualifications for a teacher, it is felt that Mrs. Tuson is the "right one in the right place."

It is very pleasing to go into a school room filled to its utmost with scholars from 5 to 10 years of age, who are keeping quiet and orderly, and in a very short time, are learning to read and spell, to answer difficult problems in arithmetic and in geography, and to point out and to answer in concert from



the maps without tire, to an almost unlimited extent, the most important points in the world

Vocal and instrumental music is performed here in which the scholars respond almost entirely. This is as it should be.

Gymnastic exercises are also approvingly conducted, especially the gymnastic musical recitation of the multiplication table by all the school, even to the youngest.

Some thing must be done the coming year to ventilate more properly this overcrowded room.

The schools in this part of the town may be much improved if it is the desire and earnest wish of its citizens, especially of its parents. The children should be encouraged at home. The advantages and privileges of education, moral culture and obedience to the teacher should be engendered.

The wilful and combative disposition should be softened with kindness, and a high regard for the interests of the school impartially administered with evenness of temper and a kindly heart under strong conscientious convictions for the right, which of itself induces an impression of superiority to obedience ; thus with parent, teacher and scholar in full accord, success will follow.

#### BIRCH MEADOW.

MISS NELLIE CLOUGH, Teacher.

This school has been under the care of the same teacher as last year, and she has worked earnestly and faithfully to make the school, not only pleasant, but profitable to the scholars, and to a great extent, her labors have been successful. The school when visited by the committee, has always appeared in good order and the scholars have seemed to be interested in their

studies. Owing to sickness among the scholars the fall term was very thinly attended, there being at the early part of the term but five or six scholars.

### BEAR HILL SCHOOL.

*Summer Term*—MISS LOIS EDWARDS, Teacher.

*Winter Term*—MISS MARY M. HUNKINS, Teacher.

The summer term of this school closed three weeks before the usual time, on account of the feeble health of the teacher. As the term was somewhat short and closed without any examination, the committee can hardly estimate the progress of the school. As the teacher failed somewhat in discipline, her efforts in behalf of the school met with some difficulties.

The teacher of the winter term labored very faithfully to make her school a prosperous one and her efforts were crowned with success. Her discipline, as well as methods of instruction were very satisfactory. The number of absent marks has been larger in this school than any other in town, and of course the results are very bad. The committee hope the parents will try more earnestly in future to keep their children in school.

The closing examination showed a very commendable progress.

Three were promoted to the High school at the commencement of the fall term.

### HIGHLANDS SCHOOL.

MARY ELLEN HOYT, Teacher.

This school has been very fortunate in having the services of one who possesses the elements of a successful teacher,

Miss Hoyt has succeeded admirably in stimulating the ambition of the scholars to more thorough work in their studies. Good order has been maintained without resorting to severe measures.

At the closing examination the committee were very well pleased with the readiness and promptness which the scholars manifested, and the thoroughness with which they understood the studies they had pursued. The attendance through the year has been unusually good.

WM. CHASE,	}	<i>School</i>
H. J. CUSHING,		
O. F. SEAVEY,		}

## GRADUATES OF MERRIMACPORT

High School for 1877.

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*“Respice Finem.”*

HARRY MARION FOWLER,

NELLIE FLORENCE CARLETON,

FLORENCE MARIA NEAL.

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GRADUATES OF MERRIMAC

High School for 1878.

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*“Finis Coronat Opus.”*

PORTER SARGENT.

MARY AUGUSTA LAKE,

MARY ALVINA HEATH,

GEORGIE MABEL FOSTER.

MARY ATKINSON BRADY.

JENNIE HOWARD NICHOLS.



TABLE NO. I.

STATISTICS OF SUMMER TERM.

Schools.	Number of Scholars.	Average number of Scholars.	Average Attendance.	Per cent of Attendance.	Number of Days in Term.	Number Times Late.	Number Scholars over 15	Number Scholars under 15	Number of Visitors.	Teachers' wages per month.	Assist.
Merrimac High,	48	46	42	91	60	63	28		18	\$105 20	26
“ Grammar,	26	25	24	96	60	6	1		42	35	
“ Intermediate,	53	52	49	94	55	71			22	35	
“ 2d Primary,	40	39	35	90	60	108			50	25	
“ 1st Primary,	40	37	33	89	60	61		8	49	25	
Merrimacport High,	20	18	16.5	92	60	35	6		32	94 73	
“ Grammar,	35	35	32	91	60	26	1		35	35	
“ Primary,	47	46	43	93	60	16		4	25	30	
Birch Meadow District,	19	18	15	83	60	30		2	25	22	
Bear Hill	34	31	29	94	50	14	1		17	35	
Highlands	17	16	13	81	60	36			22	22	

TABLE NO. 2.

STATISTICS OF WINTER TERM.

Schools.	Number of Scholars.	Average number of Scholars.	Average Attendance.	Per cent of Attendance.	Number Days in Term.	Number Times Late.	Number Scholars over 15	Number Scholars un- der 5.	Number of Visitors.	Teachers' wages per Month.	26 Assist.
Merrimac High,	50	49	41	84	130	127	30		36	\$105	20
“ Grammar,	40	39	34	87	110	110			89	35	
“ Intermediate,	46	43	41	94	110	186			96	35	
“ 2d Primary,	28	25	23	92	110	167			76	30	
“ 1st Primary,	46	39	33	85	110	188			91	30	
Merrimacport High,	15	14	12	85	130	70	6	4	42	94	73
“ Grammar,	30	29	27	93	110	102	1		31	35	
“ Primary,	49	47	42	90	110	57		3	30	30	
Birch Meadow District,	11	9	8	89	65	4			22	22	
Bear Hill	37	36	23	64	110	53			29	35	
Highlands	16	15	12	80	68	11			18	22	















